

tough job that doesn't receive enough appreciation. That is why I am going to begin honoring teachers each month by naming a Teacher of the Month. This honor will allow us to recognize the dedication and tireless effort put forth by these true professionals.

Once again, I congratulate all the honorees and look forward to honoring them, and other schools, in the future.

IN MEMORY OF EDWARD J. VOLANTE, LONGTIME CLIFTON HEIGHTS FIRE CHIEF, CAREER FIREFIGHTER WITH A LEGACY OF PUBLIC SERVICE, COMPASSION AND COURAGE

### HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 20, 2004*

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great sadness and tremendous gratitude to honor the life of my good friend, Edward J. Volante, a longtime Clifton Heights Fire Chief and career firefighter. As his family, friends and neighbors mourn the passing of Ed Volante, I want to take a few moments today to remember his work and the difference he made in the community he served so bravely and selflessly.

Chief Volante was a lifelong resident of Clifton Heights, Pennsylvania, where he served as fire chief for 26 years and a firefighter for 50 years. He embodied the most noble virtues of public service. The Chief served in almost every position in the fire company since joining the Clifton Heights Hose & Hook in 1954. Chief Volante will be remembered for his loyal dedication to improving his community's ability to respond to emergencies and ensure the safety of all residents.

Firefighting is a matter of life and death, and individuals like Chief Volante assume an enormous responsibility when they accept the job of running a fire department. They are responsible for the lives, homes, and livelihoods of thousands of citizens throughout their community. And on a day-to-day basis they become directly responsible for the health and welfare of all the men and women they supervise. Chief Volante discharged these enormous responsibilities with real distinction. During his 26 year tenure as chief, a good department became even better. Chief Volante took great pride in the fact that his fire company was the proving grounds for other companies. Chief Volante was respected for his commitment to public safety and his ability to get things done.

Recognizing how difficult it is these days to recruit volunteers, he had a sign posted outside the fire company, "Volunteers needed, apply here." He often said, "you can never have too many volunteers." The citizens of Clifton Heights should take comfort that their fire company will continue to evoke Chief Volante's spirit and legacy through their continued efforts to better their community. When the alarm sounds at all hours of the day and night it will serve as a call for more volunteers to the noble calling of the fire service.

Mr. Speaker, the 7th Congressional District has lost an exceptional public servant, and I have lost a good friend. I wish Chief Volante's wife of 44 years, Carol Ann and family, my heartfelt condolences and may they find com-

fort in knowing that the many people he impacted deeply value his dedication and generosity and the example of his life and work. Chief Edward J. Volante exemplified the spirit of service that has made this country great. This man was a genuine community leader. He not only did his job well, he loved it, and the community he served. We are safer because of his life and sacrifice. I am personally grateful to have known Chief Volante as a friend, and mourn his passing.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE HERNDON COMMUNITY BY TOM AND BETSY GREIN

### HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 20, 2004*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Rep. TOM DAVIS and myself, it is our pleasure today to recognize the contributions to community journalism made by Tom and Betsy Grein through their ownership of The Observer newspapers in the Herndon community of Fairfax County, Virginia. After 13 years at the helm starting in June 1990—when they bought The Observer from the late Peggy Vetter, the newspaper's founder—the Greins last October sold the paper to new owners.

Tom and Betsy Grein formed a team dedicated to maintaining the highest standards of journalism with a focus on providing the community of Herndon with a vital source of information. Tom served as editor and publisher and Betsy was general manager and advertising director. During their tenure, The Observer grew with the community, increasing its circulation from 14,000 to more than 60,000, tripling its full-time staff, adding editions in Loudoun County and Reston, and publishing electronically on the World Wide Web.

Tom also wrote more than 700 "Our Town" columns, faithfully documenting his perspective of Herndon and the history and people of the community.

In addition to their tireless efforts as the owners of The Observer, they also found time to be active members of the Herndon community. Tom served on the Board of Directors of Herndon Community Television and the Herndon Rotary Club and Betsy was a member of the Board of Directors of the Herndon Dulles Chamber of Commerce and the Council for the Arts of Herndon.

We express appreciation to Tom and Betsy Grein on behalf of all the citizens of the greater Herndon community for their dedicated service to community journalism and wish them the best in their future endeavors.

REMEMBERING THE VICTIMS ON THE OCCASION OF THE 89TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

### HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 20, 2004*

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I join today with many of my colleagues in remembering

the victims of the Armenian Genocide. April 24th will be the 89th anniversary of this human tragedy.

From 1915 to 1923, the world witnessed the first genocide of the 20th century. This was clearly one of the world's greatest tragedies—the deliberate and systematic Ottoman annihilation of 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children. Furthermore, another 500,000 refugees fled and escaped to various points around the world—effectively eliminating the Armenian population of the Ottoman Empire.

From these ashes arose hope and promise in 1991—and I was blessed to see it. I was one of the four international observers from the United States Congress to monitor Armenia's independence referendum. I went to the communities in the northern part of Armenia, and I watched in awe as 95 percent of the people over the age of 18 went out and voted.

The Armenian people had been denied freedom for so many years and, clearly, they were very excited about this new opportunity. Almost no one stayed home. They were all out in the streets going to the polling places. I watched in amazement as people stood in line for hours to get into these small polling places and vote.

Then, after they voted, the other interesting thing was that they did not go home. They had brought covered dishes with them, and all of these polling places had little banquets afterward to celebrate what had just happened.

What a great thrill it was to join them the next day in the streets of Yerevan when they were celebrating their great victory. Ninety-eight percent of the people who voted cast their ballots in favor of independence. It was a wonderful experience to be there with them when they danced and sang and shouted, "Ketse azat ankakh Hayastan"—long live free and independent Armenia! That should be the cry of freedom-loving people everywhere.

### TRIBUTE TO PROVIDENCE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

### HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 20, 2004*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Providence Missionary Baptist Church on the occasion of the dedication of their new church facilities. Founded in Newark in 1921, this church has been serving and ministering to our community for 83 years, and has long been an institution within my district.

In March of 1921, six families gathered to establish the Rose Hill Baptist Church, calling Rev. B.W. Keith as their first pastor. Though they have moved to various locations around the city of Newark, they have continued to bless our community through their dedication to serving each other, as well as their neighbors, through compassionate ministry.

Providence Missionary Baptist Church continues to reach beyond their own parish to serve the citizens of Newark, establishing a feeding and clothing ministry called Feed My Sheep, Christian Education and Leadership training, an Annual Leadership Conference, and a preschool for the children in the community.

Under the leadership of their current Pastor, Rev. Vincent Grove, they continue to experience growth, adding new members to their